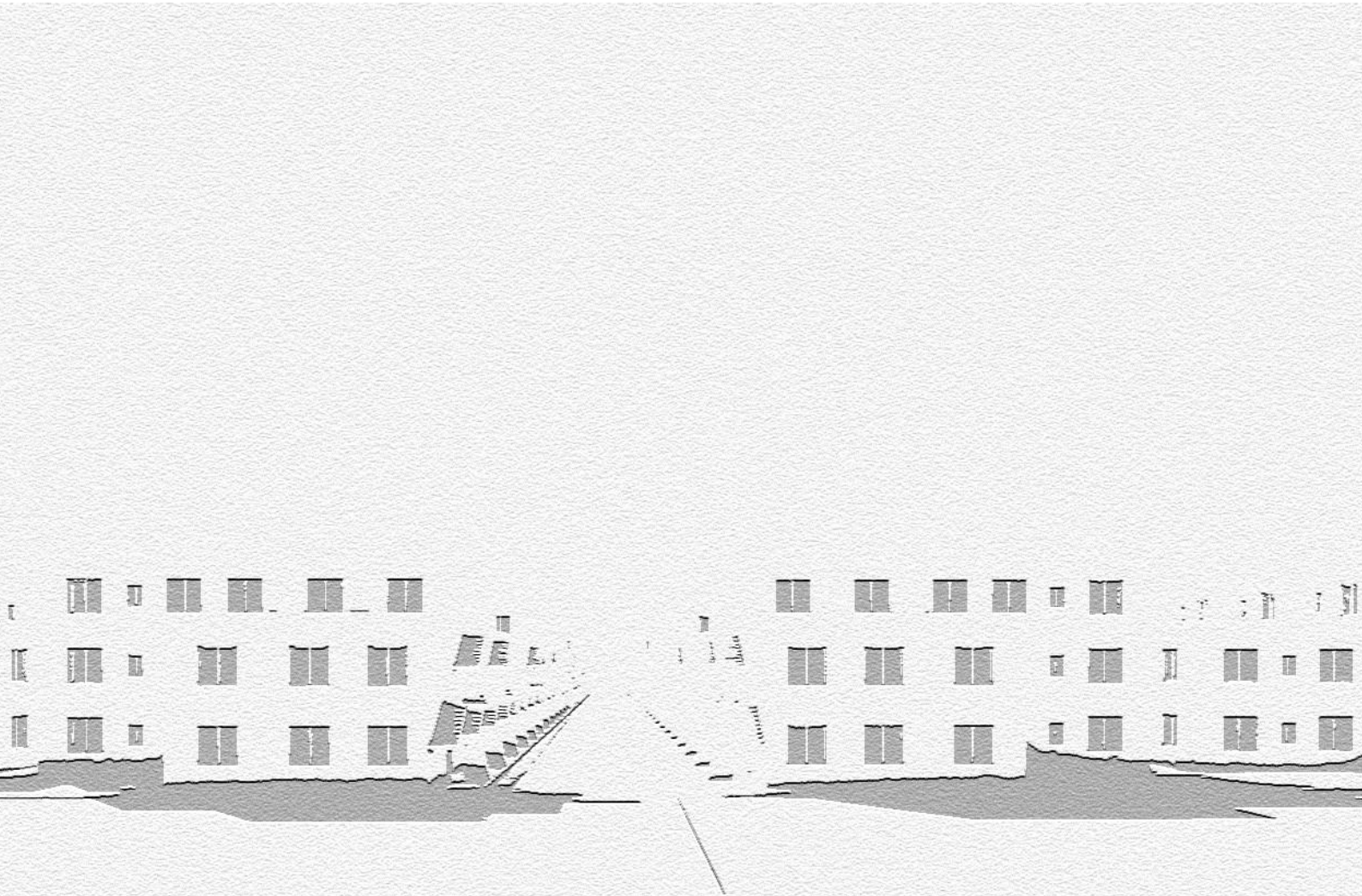




URBAN POLICIES AS A METHOD FOR UPGRADING PALESTINIAN REFUGEE SETTLEMENTS IN AMMAN



Thesis Statements

Urban Policies as a Method for Upgrading Palestinian Refugee Settlements in Amman:

A Case Study of Al-Hussein Refugee Settlement

DLA Dissertation.

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Abstract

Palestinian refugee camps in Jordan were established as a result of the occupation of Palestine in 1948, causing hundreds of thousands of Palestinians to seek refuge in the neighbouring countries. Due to the ongoing situation, what was initially established as a "temporary solution" transformed into an urban sprawl of informal settlements within the city contexts. Considering the political and urban situation, these refugee settlements face various challenges, from physical and environmental, to socio-economic issues. This dissertation investigates the built environment of such settlements and the correlation between urban housing policies and upgrading of Palestinian refugee camps in Amman. The dissertation adopts a case study method, choosing Al-Hussein refugee camp in Amman as the case study. Through interviews with designated organizations, observational field study, and upon the analysis of statistical data, the study seeks to establish an assessment model of the current situation. The goal is to develop a framework for upgrading strategies, based on a combination of theoretical insights and field studies. Afterwards, the study designs a housing units' module that outlines the application of low-cost and shared living solutions to rehabilitate housing units within the camp and to inform stakeholders about the most effective strategies for upgrading refugee settlements into a housing community development for future use.

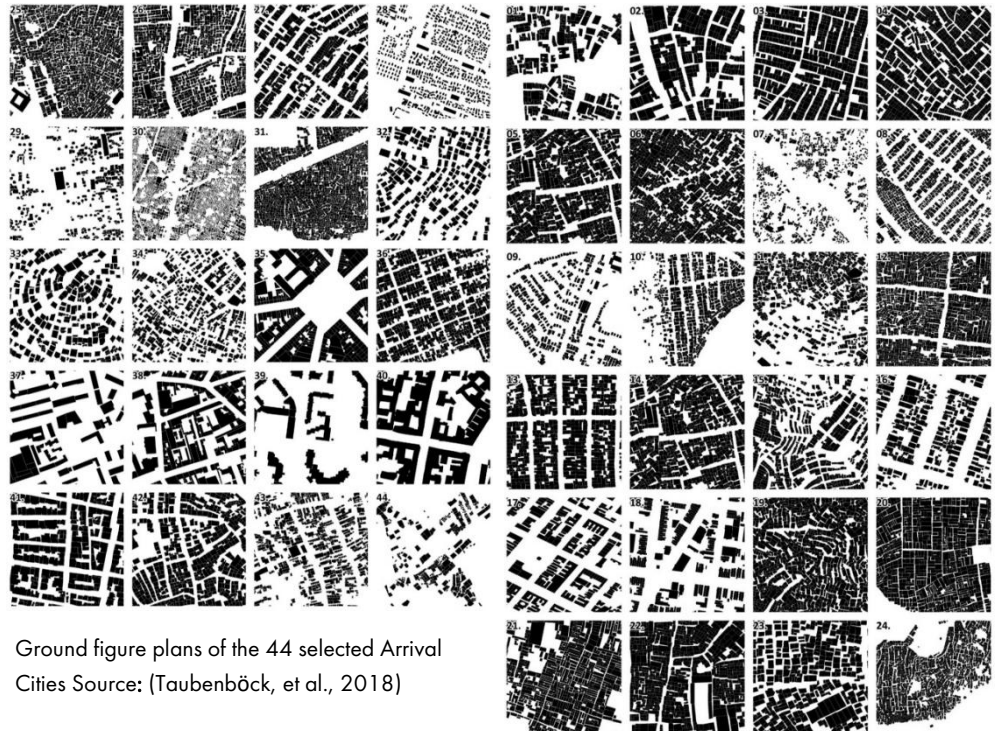
Absztrakt

A jordániai palesztin menekült-táborok Palesztina idegenek általi, 1948-ban történt megszállása következtében jöttek létre, aminek következtében több százezer palesztin volt kénytelen menedéket keresni a szomszédos országokban. Az azóta eltelt mintegy nyolc évtized során az eredetileg ideiglenes megoldásként létrehozott táborok az idők során informális településekké alakultak a város szövetében. Ezek a menekült-telepek, úgy politikai, mint általános városszerkezeti és városigazgatási szempontból, mindvégig folyamatos és számos kihívással szembesültek, az általános műszaki-fizikai problémáktól kezdve a környezeti problémákon át egészen a társadalmi-gazdasági kérdésekig bezárólag. A Disszertáció e településformák épített környezetét vizsgálja a város- és lakáspolitikai összefüggésrendszerében, valamint az ammani palesztin menekült-táborok megújításának a lehetőségeit kutatja, egy új modellre alapozott megoldás kimunkálásának az igényével. A részletes vizsgálat tárgyául választott ammani Al Husszein palesztin menekült-tábor elemzéséhez a Disszertáció az esettanulmány módszertanát alkalmazza. A tárgykörben érintett hivatalos szervekkel és hivatásos szervezetekkel készített interjúk, a helyszíni megfigyelésekre és tapasztalatszerzésre alapozott vizsgálatok, és a statisztikai adatok elemzése révén a Disszertáció a menekült-telep jelenlegi helyzetét regisztrálja. Célja egy keretrendszer kidolgozása egy lehetséges megújítási stratégiai modell kimunkálásához, aminek elérését az előkészítő szakaszban rögzített elméleti háttérismeretekre, és a terepkutatások eredményeinek együttes kombinációjára alapozza a Disszertáció. A kifejtési szakaszban a Disszertáció egy lakóegység-modulor kidolgozásával, alacsony költségű, és közösségi szemléletű lakhatási megoldásokra alapozott beavatkozásokkal kínál egy kívánatos megoldást, ami nem csupán a lakóegységek felújítására vonatkoztatható, hanem, ennek keretén belül, be is vonja az érdekelt feleket az érintett népesség lakóközösséggé történő átalakulásának és megújításának stratégia jelentőségű folyamatába.

1st | Theses

The physical appearance of any given urban fabric is an organic part of its inhabitants' collective memory, and therefore it is a fundamental element of a city's identity. The decline or demise of this fabric through a development that disregards historical and social patterns can result in the loss of not just a meaningful urban heritage but also in the collective identity of its inhabitants.

This framework proposes an urban design strategy for upgrading Palestinian refugee camps in Amman based on the clustered urban morphology. This approach aims to promote a sense of belonging and cultural continuity, which involves preserving the image of clustered units which reflect the traditional way of living and preserving the social structure to create a unique identity.



Ground figure plans of the 44 selected Arrival Cities Source: (Taubenböck, et al., 2018)

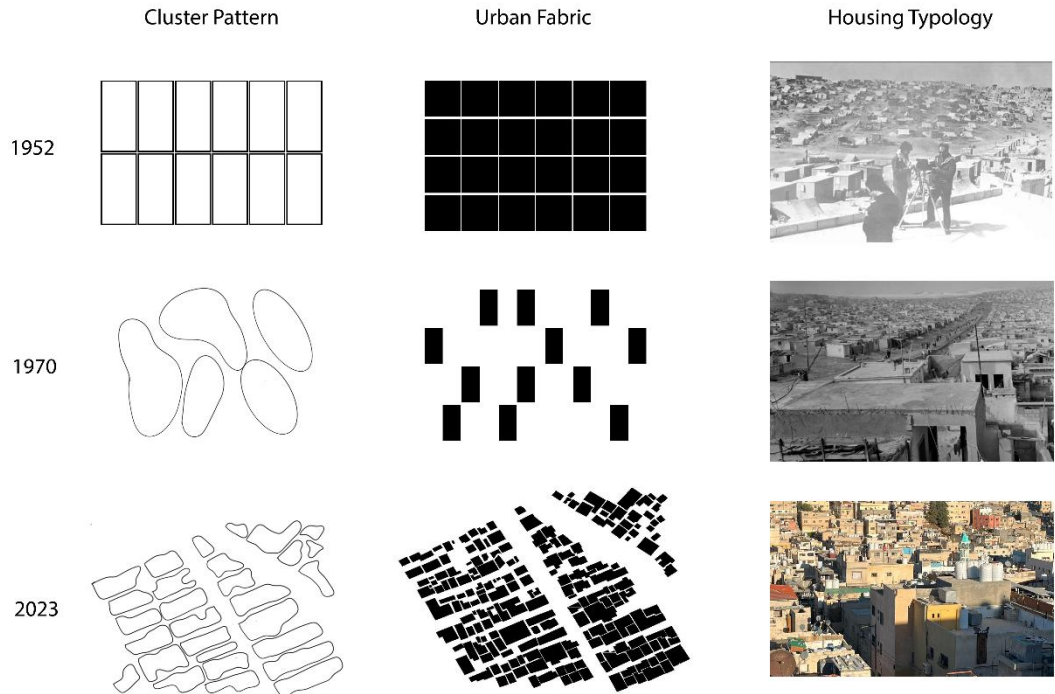


Urban pattern morphology (Source: The Author)

2nd | Theses

Upgrading refugee settlements through implementing urban policies is essential to integrate such settlements into the city's urban fabric and enhance their organic development as part of the city.

The dissertation introduces a framework combining incremental housing techniques, local materials, land-sharing, and innovative design strategies. This framework establishes the foundation for a housing upgrade design plan to rehabilitate and incorporate these settlements into Amman's urban fabric.



Representation of urban fabric density- Al-Hussien camp (Source: The Author)

3rd | Theses

Examining the urban history, development and morphology of refugee settlements is crucial for establishing the background of the study, and to understand how these settlements were formed within the city.

The dissertation outlines the history of Amman as a city, focusing on its urban development and the transformation of refugee camps into informal settlements. By studying the city's urban development, it becomes visible how these settlements evolved, providing a foundation to establish an upgrading strategy to be implemented.

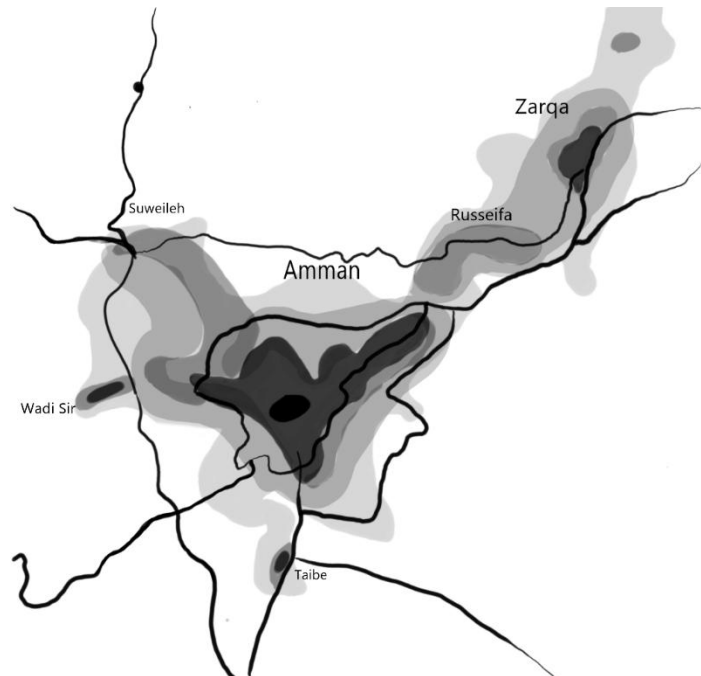
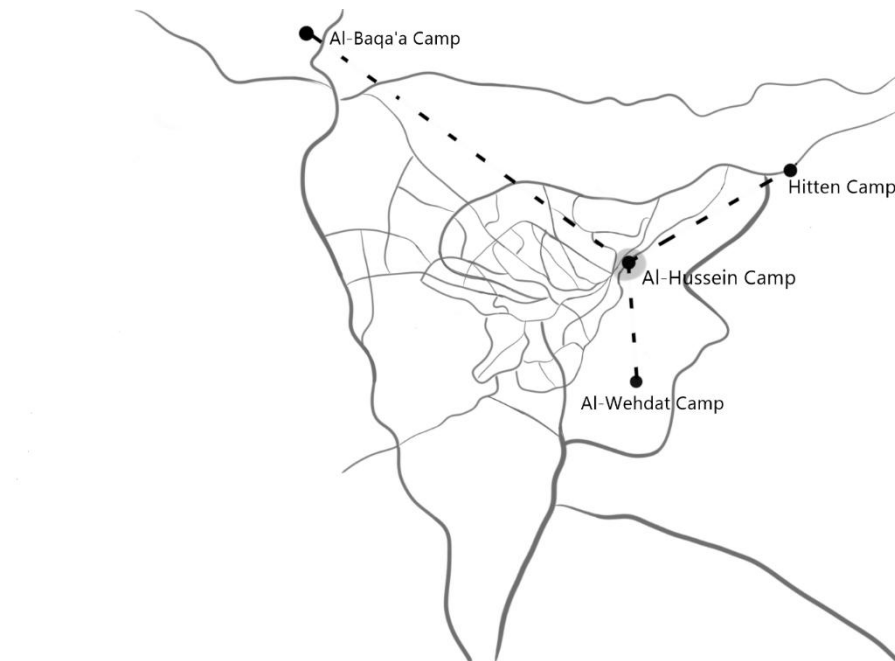


Diagram of Amman urban growth (Source: The Author)

4th | Theses

Collecting data through site visits, interviews, and case study analyses is essential for understanding the built environment of refugee settlements. This information serves as the foundation for a classification system that categorizes housing units based on their current condition.

The dissertation implements a classification system for housing units, based on both absolute and relative variables which were identified through field research. Based on this system the design and upgrading strategies were developed, ensuring that the proposed strategies meet the requirements of the current housing unit conditions.

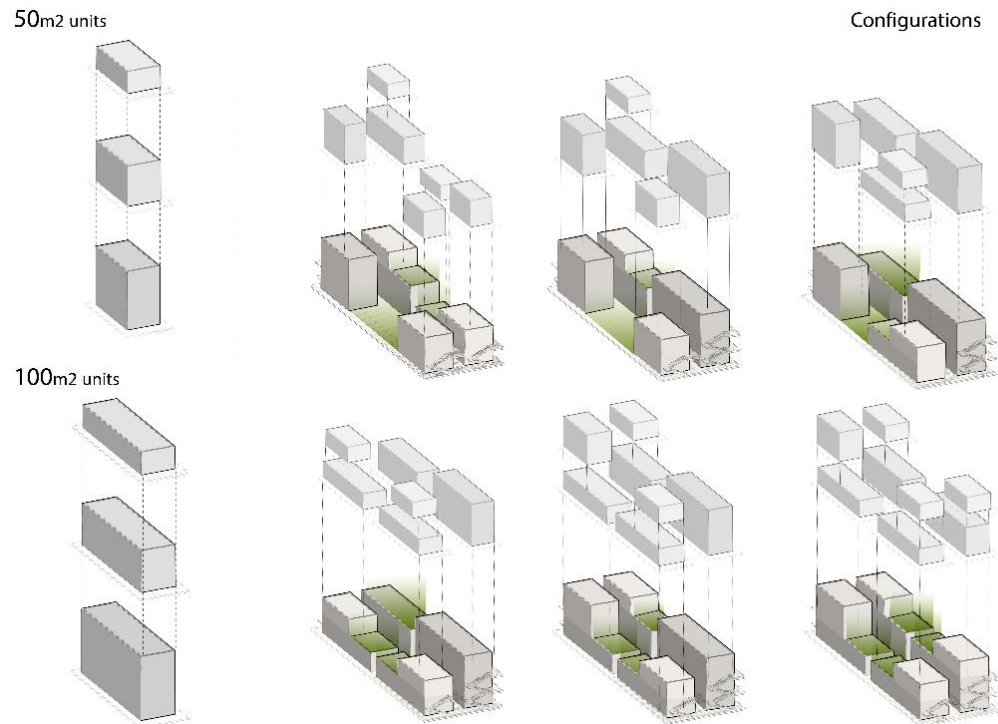


Map of the visited camps (Source: The Author)

5th | Theses

A modular housing unit design that includes upgrading strategies can provide flexible and adaptive solutions for refugee settlements' renovation.

The dissertation introduces a modular design model which incorporates different design concepts such as optimizing space, maximizing natural light, improving ventilation, and reinforcing materials. This model can be customized for various sites, offering a flexible and scalable solution for upgrading refugee settlements throughout Jordan.



Proposed housing units' configurations (Source: The Author)

6th | Theses

The application of the methodology of low-cost renovation systems allows residents of refugee camps to access affordable solutions to improve their living conditions. This 'bottom-up', spontaneous process can significantly contribute to the renewal of the refugee camps as a whole.

The dissertation proposes a set of urban policies, such as spatial optimisation, provision of light and ventilation, placement of vertical circulation, use of local material, consideration of privacy and incremental housing. In addition to providing a better living environment these implementations aim to regulate and organize the urban pattern of the settlement. At the same time, all these interventions must be preceded by the preparation of a unique regulation regarding the built environment with these special characteristics given, in cooperation with skilled experts from several involved disciplines, and it must be achieved that the authorities can also enforce the provisions of the regulation. The existence of organized engineering infrastructures, public health and safety regulations, and reasonable solutions required by functions, as well as the construction parameters serving them, provides a sufficient basis for the development of the built environment of the neighbourhood, keeping in mind the initiative need for integration into the existing neighbourhood's urban fabric.

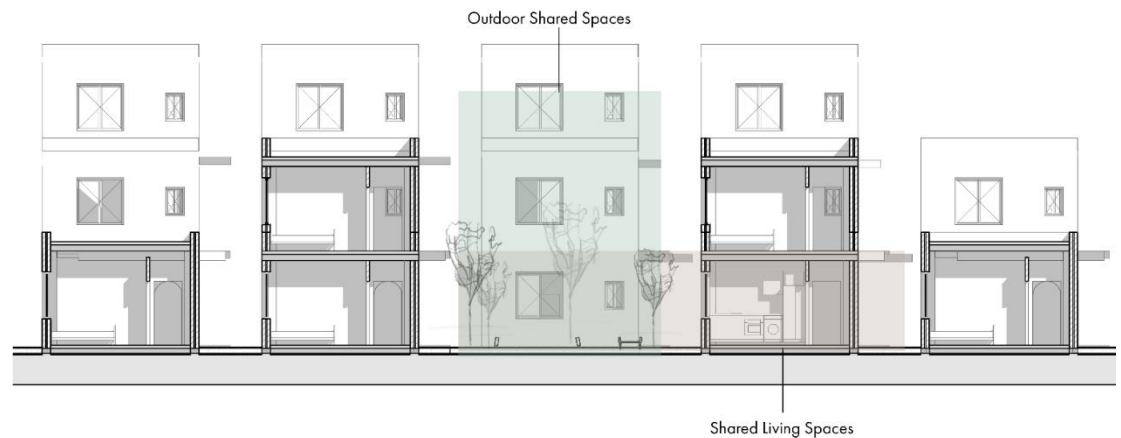


Proposed housing units plan (Source: The Author)

7th | Theses

Creating neighbourhood layouts based on shared living spaces on the ground floor areas and communal outdoor spaces for the public in between houses, on certain streets in between the buildings, sometimes on top of carefully chosen units can enhance positive social interaction and provide open spaces for the use of the inhabitants.

The dissertation proposes a modular housing configuration that integrates shared living space as well as communal outdoor space. This approach provides a flexible shared spaces that can contribute to the spatial organization of the housing units. In addition, introducing open spaces can help reduce the high density of such settlements and encourage communal interactions for a more community-oriented settlement. These interventions on one hand may result in losing a certain amount of living units in the whole but may create benefits by improving these social activities on the other, as well as letting more air in urban-wise among different blocks of chosen building units.



Proposed Shared spaces integration (Source: The Author)

